

Next Meeting: October 2, 2002
10:00 a.m. – Thorburn Center - Ingham ISD (Rooms B and C)

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Minutes of June 5, 2002, Meeting
10:00 a.m.

Present: Carolyn Belknap Bartz, Jill Blixt, Kathleen Clegg, Glenda Hammond, Nancy Jackson, Jill Jacobs, Chris Lerchen (for Kim Kaster), Patricia Keller, Brenda Kotsis, Shari Krishnan, Peggy McNeilly, Patricia Metz, Pam Mish, Bob Opsommer, Ginny Palubin, Brian Pianosi, Sue Rabidioux, Debs Roush, Larry Simpson, Patricia St. George, Don Trap, Laurie VanderPloeg, Randall VanGasse, Steve Wessels, Anne White-O'Hara
Ex-Officio members: Craig Sparks

Absent: Deborah Canja, Michael DeVault, Deb Russell

OSE/EIS Staff: David Brock, Fran Loose

Guests: Cheryl Ervin, Marge Joslin, Linda Keway, Jim Kubaiko, Paul Kubicek, Sandi Laham, Jerry Oermann, Steve Schwartz, Collette Ward, Jon Wurdock,

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Laurie VanderPloeg.

Roll Call

Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests attending the meeting were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The agenda of the June 5, 2002, meeting was considered. Pam Mish moved, seconded by Brenda Kotsis, to approve the agenda as written. The motion carried.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The minutes of the May 1, 2002, meeting were considered. Steve Wessels moved, seconded by Ginny Palubin, to approve the minutes. The motion carried.

Public Comment

Jerry Oermann inquired whether all of the appointments for SEAC had been made. Jerry was informed that all the approved seats for SEAC have been filled.

Chairperson's Report – Laurie VanderPloeg

The SEAC fall retreat is scheduled for September 8 & 9, 2002, and will be held at Brook Lodge in Augusta.

In order to be eligible for CEUs, SEAC members requesting credit need to complete and return meeting evaluation forms. If this process is not complied with, eligible participants could be at risk of losing this benefit.

Due to the length of the day's agenda, it is expected that the meeting will last until approximately 12:30 p.m. Lunch will be served following the meeting and there will be not subcommittee meetings.

State Department Report – David Brock

The new Administrative Rules for Special Education have been approved and will go in to effect on June 6, 2002. A plan for phasing in the new rules is under way, including an implementation period of one year and a suspension of monitoring during this transition. A memo from Jacques Thompson will go out to the field along with a chart outlining the changes in the Rules. The purpose of the chart is to go rule by rule to note when the changes were implemented and when the changes were monitored. As a result of the one-year transition, new IEPs will be not required for the 2002-2003 academic year.

As supportive documentation for the new Rules is prepared, it will be shared with the SEAC.

The new Rules have not yet been posted on the e-Michigan web-site. As soon as they are made available, SEAC members will be notified of their location.

A period of public comment on the Rules will be conducted from August 1 through September 30. After the public has had the opportunity to review and respond and Superintendent Watkins has responded to the public comment this information will be brought to SEAC for their review. It is expected that SEAC will have the opportunity to review this information in October or November of 2002.

Discussion followed.

State Board Meeting Report – David Brock

The criteria for Positive Behavior Support (PBS) and the Education Information Network grants have been approved but the Requests for Proposal (RFPs) themselves have not yet been completed.

Bob Opsommer inquired about the Michigan Department of Education, Office of Special Education and Early Intervention Services notification procedures for RFPs. Fran Loose indicated formal notification is sent via US Mail. The list is usually comprised of ISDs, LEAs, PSAs, IHEs, and profit and non-profit associations and organizations. David Brock also noted that this information may possibly be available on the website.

Information Items

A. State Improvement Grant (SIG) Update – Fran Loose

The SIG will begin to increase its involvement with the Continuous Improvement Monitoring Process (CIMP) as it relates to Personnel Development.

B. Review of draft year-end reports

Operations – Pat Metz reviewed the draft report prepared by Brian Pianosi. The revision of the Bylaws was the biggest task accomplished by the Committee this year.

State Improvement Plan – Shari Krishnan reviewed the draft report, noting that the Committee's review of access to the general curriculum played a major role in their work this year. During discussion, the Committee tried to define "access" which they found to be access to content, not access to a place. The Committee would like SEAC to endorse access to the general curriculum and use it for future reference.

The SIP committee would also encourage SEAC to use more of their discretionary time to hear speakers on a wide range of education topics and issues.

Discussion followed.

Policy – Steve Wessels reviewed the draft report, noting that a bulk of the Committee's work consisted of refining the Position Statement on Inclusive Education.

C. Review of priorities for year 2001-2002

Laurie VanderPloeg reviewed the year's priorities and which of them SEAC completed.

David Brock thanked SEAC for the tremendous work they accomplished this year with relation to the Administrative Rules for Special Education.

D. Review of priority/goal setting

Laurie VanderPloeg reviewed "Anticipated OSE-EIS Initiatives and Possible SEAC Calendar Items for 2002-2003 Year" that was sent to the Committee of the Whole in May.

The Committee of the Whole prepared a list of potential priorities and informational topics

E. Acknowledgement of outgoing members

Outgoing SEAC members were recognized individually for their participation on the SEAC. David Brock presented certificates of appreciation. Laurie VanderPloeg was recognized for her outstanding work as the SEAC Chairperson.

F. July and August meetings

The Executive Committee has chosen to cancel the July and August Committee of the Whole meetings. The Executive Committee will meet in July and in August to plan for the fall retreat.

Action Items

A. Approval of State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education

Steve Wessels moved, seconded by Sue Rabidoux, to open discussion on the Action Item: Approval of State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education. The motion carried.

Steve Wessels reviewed the motion in front of SEAC which should correctly read: “It is recommended that the State Board of Education approve the proposed revisions to the State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education, February 1992.”

Steve reviewed the recommendation’s pros and cons and the Policy Committee’s discussions as well.

David Brock indicated that, if approved by SEAC, this recommendation would not yet be policy but would first need public comment and then would return to SEAC for review of the public comment.

Discussion followed.

The Recommendation for Approval of State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education was considered. Steve Wessels moved, seconded by Sue Rabidoux, to approve the recommendation presented on March 6, 2002, with the supporting documentation presented on June 5, 2002. The motion carried.

Ex-Officio Reports

None

Committee Reports

None

Member Issues

Pat Keller reminded SEAC of the Statewide PAC conference on August 1st and 2nd.

Fran Loose reminded SEAC member to complete meeting evaluations and to verify the log for CEU credits.

Future Agenda Items

None.

The meeting was adjourned.

Monica Butler
Recording Secretary

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Executive Committee
Minutes of June 5, 2002, Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Present: David Brock, Shari Krishnan, Sandi Laham, Fran Loose, Pat Metz, Bob Opsommer, Ginny Palubin, Brian Pianosi, Larry Simpson, Laurie VanderPloeg, Randall VanGasse, Steve Wessels

Review of Today's Agenda

The Committee discussed the sequencing of the agenda for the Committee of the Whole. In order to have the meeting flow more smoothly, action items will be discussed before information items. Steve Wessels is expecting extensive discussion on the action item: Approval of State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education. The decision was made to forgo individual committee reports because the presentation of the year-end reports will sufficiently cover committee activities.

Future Agenda Development

Shari Krishnan indicated that the SIP committee would like to bring back the recommendation to SEAC to have representatives from different "silos" give presentations on different topic areas. It might be beneficial for SEAC to have a theme for the year so when there is discretionary time presentations can be arranged to cover the current area of interest. Fran Loose indicated that it would be prudent for SEAC to stay current with education in general and Sandi Laham reminded the Committee that it is the charge of the Executive Committee to address priorities for SEAC.

Laurie VanderPloeg indicated that SEAC might be interested in the work the Personnel Supply and Demand Strategies group has completed and a presentation could be prepared.

State Department Report

David Brock indicated that the Rules for Special Education will take effect on Thursday, June 6, 2002. A phase-in plan is being discussed along with the other activities that go with the changes to policies and procedures.

Bill Bushaw, the Chief Academic Officer for the Michigan Department of Education has announced his intent to leave the Department. A majority of Bill's work has been in accreditation and extensive work on standard setting. Elaine Mills will act as the Interim Chief Academic Officer.

Subcommittee Reports

Operations — Brian Pianosi provided a draft copy of the Operations Committee year-end report and indicated that the Committee had hoped to get the process set for filling organizational vacancies but was not successful. Other items that the Committee was working on but was not able to complete are the following: guidelines regarding the participation of visitors in committee meetings, restructuring the Operations committee in order to allow members to participate in

other SEAC subcommittees, and reviewing the feasibility of having students participate on SEAC in an Ex-officio capacity.

Brian created an Excel spreadsheet that will ensure the SEAC membership of people or parents with disabilities does not fall below 51%. Brian will provide an electronic copy of the spreadsheet to the OSE/EIS office for their use.

SIP — Shari Krishnan provided copies of the year-end report to the Executive Committee. One of the main focuses of the SIP Committee for the last year has been access to the general curriculum. The SIP Committee discussed the definition of “access” at length and has decided that it means access to content not access to a place. Discussion followed.

Policy – Steve Wessels reported that the Policy Committee hopes that SEAC will approve the recommendation of the State Board of Education Position Statement on Inclusive Education. Discussion followed.

Miscellaneous

Other – Retreat planning meetings will be scheduled for July 22 and August 12. The meetings will be held in the OSE/EIS office from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day.

Pam Mish has agreed to Chair the SIP Committee for the 2002-03 year and Ginny Palubin has agreed to chair the Operations Committee. Brian and Ginny will meet so Brian can orient Ginny on what tasks the Committee has been addressing. Steve Wessels has indicated that he will step down if someone else would like the opportunity to serve as chair of the Policy. It has been suggested that Steve look at the possibility of have a co-chair for the Policy committee.